

Serial No. 10/780798

- 6 -

Art Unit: 2686

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claim 1 was rejected under §103 based on Kallio in view of Eng. Claim 2 was rejected under §103(a) over Kallio in view of Eng and further in view of Idnani. Claim 3 was rejected under §103(a) over Kallio in view of Eng and further in view of Feder. Claim 1 is currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 distinguishes the combination of Kallio and Eng because a station may associate with a different access point without being forced to do so by communication failure. It is known that some stations will remain associated with an access point until communication with that access point is no longer possible. For example, the station may remain associated with the access point until movement of the station beyond the range of the access point causes communication failure. As described in para. 0037 of Kallio, handover forced by movement can be made less problematic by enhancing handover. However, the communications range of access points in a wireless network may overlap, resulting in a potential scenario where a station receives poor service upon moving near the edge of the range of a first access point, and remain associated with that first access point even though superior service is available from a second access point. The Kallio technique does not help in that scenario unless the station moves beyond the range of the first access point. However, the presently claimed invention can help in that scenario.

In contrast with the cited combination, the presently claimed invention includes periodic attempts to change AP/station association based on performance. In particular, bid messages are periodically exchanged, and a decision to send a bid message is based at least in-part on an indication that the receiving device is capable of providing better service. Potential advantages of the claimed invention over the cited combination include (1) migrating to a new access point

Serial No. 10/780798

- 7 -

Art Unit: 2686

before communication failure because of motion; (2) migrating to a new access point based on changing relative AP loads; and (3) migration to a new access point being introduced to the system. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is therefore requested.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2 and 3 is therefore requested.

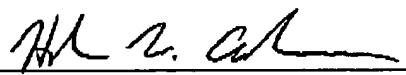
The Office also objected to the specification based on informalities. The specification has been amended as indicated by the Office.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 14, 2006
Date


Holmes Anderson, Reg. No. 37,272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-6664

Docket No. 160-041
Dd: 2/15/06